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A TALE OF REVENGE.

There were sunken looks, knitted brows,

angry faces, clenched hands, and

murdered hearts of vengeance, when George

Foster marched and carried away from

the little settlement to his own home,

the fairest flower that had ever bloomed

on the prairie.

True, it was not the case with all, or

even the majority. He was generally

beloved for his bravery, open hand and

heart, and good fellowship. Many were

sadly disappointed, without a doubt, for

Kate Montgomery was a prize worth

obtaining; but a few looked upon the

marriage as a direct insult and wrong,

and did not take the trouble to conceal

their feelings even in the church. They

were the Slocum family, a father and

four grown up sons (the mother had

long been dead), who lived in a tumble-

down cabin at some distance in the

wood—lived, as they said, by hunting,

and trapping, and trading. Yet it was

very much doubted if that was their sole

employment—if the large sums of money

(for that country) they now and then

had were not the proceeds of far less

honest undertakings.

With one exception, they were coarse,

brutal and uneducated men. That was

Henry, or as he was commonly known

"Hank" Slocum, the youngest son. Na-

ture, as if in recompense for his low par-

ture, had made him strangely beauti-

ful, and given him an almost matchless

figure and brilliant intellect.

Where he was unknown, the smooth

tongue, deferential manner, and extreme

good looks of Henry Slocum soon en-

abled him to gain a foothold in society,

and he was a remarkable favorite with

the other sex. Relying upon this, he

had not doubted he would win Kate

Montgomery if he chose so to do; and

after the sudden death of her parents,

which left her the heiress of what was

considered a large fortune, he determined

to make the artless and beautiful girl his

wife.

But Henry Slocum was entirely wrong

in his calculations. The girl would have

nothing to do with him—refused his pre-

sents—refused his society—and when he

saw the door standing open, and rush-

ed within, calling loudly. But as it had

been at the warehouse, there was no an-

swer, and his heart sank within him.

He passed the little parlor and entered

the bedroom, to find marks of a severe

struggle on every side—the bed torn and

pillows stained with blood. Then, in-

stead of the heart of the strong man grew

laid, his knees trembled like one with

the palsy, he sank into a chair, and for a

few minutes was incapable of action, al-

most of thought. But he could not long

remain in such terrible suspense. The

worst could not be worse than that; and

with wild fear, he started up, and began

searching through the house for what he

expected to find—the mangled remains of

her who worshipped.

In the far corner of the cellar he found

her lying insensible. He lifted and car-

ried her up stairs, placed her in bed, and

sought restorative—saw, as he was bath-

ing the pallid face, upon which were

stamped both intense fear and agony,

that her beautiful throat was sadly

bruised, and there still remained upon it

the marks of heavy fingers, whose she

had been brutally choked. But, after a

time, she was sufficiently restored to re-

cognize him, and the instant she did so a

cry of horror burst from her lips—she

wildly struggled to escape, and again

lapsed into insensibility.

Thus the day passed, and a night of

He did not forget. The safety of his

wife was too much impressed upon his

memory for that; and it was not until

he had obtained a promise from the

motherly old lady that she would not

only go and keep his wife company, but

go at once, that he continued his journey.

Then he rode swiftly, resolving to sur-

prise Kate by his sudden return—to be

home by midnight.

But, notwithstanding all his efforts, it

was past sunrise before the clatter of his

horse's feet rang again through the one

street of the village. He had to pass his

warehouse on the way, and was surprised

that it was not yet opened.

For once, his faithful clerk must have

overslept himself, and he resolved to dis-

mount and awaken him. In an instant

his hand was upon the latch, and a

strange fear took possession of him. The

door was not fastened!

What could it mean? He pushed for-

ward, calling his clerk by name, but no

answer was returned—saw that the goods

had been torn down from the shelves,

the safe was standing open, and he knew

that a foul deed had been done—knew,

in a moment, as he came upon the dead

body of the young man and a pile of half-

burned wood and shavings, that murder

and attempted arson had been added to

burglary.

To arouse some of the nearest neigh-

bors, hurriedly relate what he had seen,

and tell them to take charge of the ware-